7. (Original) A method of extruding a shaped visco-elastic component, comprising:

(a) feeding a visco-elastic material into a cylindrical extruder barrel at a feed end of said extruder,

(b) rotating a screw to mix and provide working engagement of said screw with said cylindrical extruder barrel characterized by,

(c) maintaining working engagement of said screw and said extruder barrel at a discharge end of said extruder by confining the flow of said visco-elastic material through a transition space between a screw nose on said screw and said cylindrical extruder barrel wherein said screw nose has an upstream portion of increasing diameter in the direction of flow of said material providing an upstream generally conical surface.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising maintaining working engagement of said visco-elastic material from said upstream portion to a downstream portion of decreasing diameter in said transition space wherein a flow channel head with a tapered wall is attached to said extruder characterized by conveying said visco-elastic material in working engagement with said downstream portion of said screw nose and said tapered wall of said flow channel head.

9. (Original) An extruder and flow channel head assembly comprising an extruder having a cylindrical barrel with a feed end and a discharge end, said discharge end being attached to a flow channel head containing a flow channel for carrying rubber from said extruder to a suitable die, a screw nose on said extruder screw positioned in a transition space at said discharge end of said barrel characterized by said screw nose having a radially expanding upstream portion providing a conical surface of increasing diameter in the direction of flow of said rubber for maintaining said rubber in working engagement with said screw nose and said cylinder wall, whereby the pressure on said rubber is maintained in said transition space.

10. (Original) An extruder and flow head assembly according to claim 9, further characterized by said screw nose having a downstream portion with a conical surface of decreasing diameter in the direction of flow of said rubber spaced from an opposing tapered wall

of said flow channel head to maintain working engagement of said rubber with said conical surface of said screw nose and said tapered wall of said flow channel head whereby pressure on said rubber is maintained to prevent expansion of volatiles in said rubber.

11. (Original) An extruder and flow head assembly according to claim 10, further characterized by said flow channel having a generally constant cross sectional area from tapered wall of said flow channel head to a discharge end of said flow channel head to maintain pressure on said rubber and provide time for volatiles in said material to be dissolved before ejection from said flow channel head.

12. (New) The extruder screw nose of claim 1, wherein said upstream portion of said barrel of said extruder has a diameter D1 and said downstream portion of said barrel of said extruder has a diameter D2, wherein D2 is less than or equal to D1 to maintain pressure on the extrudate.